

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 054955
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 SY-05 ISO-00 MCT-01 /017 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:JJZIOLKOWSKI:LB
APPROVED BY NEA/ARP:JWTTWINAM
A/SY/PRS:MTRITOLA (IN DRAFT)

-----112211Z 000843 /67

O 112148Z MAR 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 054955

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, PDIP

SUBJECT: SECURITY FOR KUWAITI EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON

1. AT APPROXIMATELY 1:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, THREE MEN APPROACHED KUWAITI EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND PROCEEDED TO FRONT OF AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE. THEY ASKED TO SEE AMBASSADOR AND WERE TOLD THAT HE WAS NOT IN THE CITY. THEY THEN ASKED FOR CHARGE WHO WAS OUT OF EMBASSY AT THAT TIME. ALL THREE THEN DEPARTED, WALKING TO CAR PARKED APPROX. 100 YARDS FROM EMBASSY. THIS INCIDENT OCCURRED SHORTLY AFTER HOSTAGES WERE SEIZED AT THREE BUILDINGS IN WASHINGTON, D.C. BY PERSONS WHOM MEDIA IDENTIFY AS MEMBERS OF HANAFI MUSLIM SECT IN WASHINGTON. FIRST SECRETARY AT KUWAITI EMBASSY CALLED EXECUTIVE PROTECTION SERVICE TO REPORT INCIDENT AND EPS ASSIGNED TWO MEN, FULL TIME TO THE EMBASSY. EMBASSY EMPLOYEES WERE ABLE TO GIVE ONLY SKETCHY DESCRIPTIONS OF THREE MEN TO EPS AND DID NOT RPT NOT SEE LICENSE NUMBER OF CAR.

2. MEDIA REPORT THAT ONE OF REASONS GIVEN BY GROUP FOR
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SEIZURE OF THE BUILDINGS AND HOSTAGES IS TO PUBLICIZE
THEIR OPPOSITION TO FILM "MOHAMMED, MESSENGER OF GOD."
FILM OPENED IN NEW YORK CITY ON MARCH 9 BUT SHOWING WAS

STOPPED AT REQUEST OF DISTRIBUTOR. SEVERAL MEDIA STORIES
HAVE INCLUDED INFORMATION THAT THIS FILM WAS FINANCED BY
KUWAIT OR BY QUOTE ARAB OIL MONEY END QUOTE. PUBLIC

LINKAGE OF KUWAIT TO FILM ALSO CAUSED UNDERSTANDABLE ANXIETY IN KUWAITI EMBASSY.

3. ON MORNING OF MARCH 11, FOLLOWING RELEASE OF ALL HOSTAGES IN DOWNTOWN BUILDINGS, EPS REMOVED TWO FIXED POST GUARDS AND INSTITUTED "INTENSIFIED SPECIAL ATTENTION" WHICH MEANS EPS CAR WILL CRUISE BY EMBASSY APPROXIMATELY EVERY 15 MINUTES. ARP IS MAINTAINING CONTACT WITH EPS THROUGH SY. EPS HAS SAID THAT IF FILM OPENS AGAIN FOR PUBLIC VIEWING FIXED POST GUARDS WILL AGAIN BE ASSIGNED TO EMBASSY. FIRST SECRETARY AT KUWAITI EMBASSY HAS EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR AND AGREEMENT WITH THIS ARRANGEMENT AS WELL AS PRECAUTIONS TAKEN IN PAST TWO DAYS.

4. ARP OFFICER RECALLS THAT MOHAMMED SAN'OUSI, ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY FOR TV AFFAIRS IN GOK MINISTRY OF INFORMATION WAS ONE OF FILM'S FINANCIAL BACKERS BUT THAT NO GOK FUNDS WERE USED TO FINANCE FILM. STUART REVO OF AL-ESSA AND ABU ZAYYAD WORKED ON CONTRACTUAL MATTERS FOR FILM'S PRODUCERS IN LATTER PART OF 1976.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECURITY, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 11-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE054955
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JJZIOLKOWSKI:LB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770085-0123
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770367/aaaachev.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 25a524b9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3130734
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECURITY FOR KUWAITI EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON
TAGS: ASEC, PDIP, KU
To: KUWAIT
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/25a524b9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009